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United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Letter dated 27 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to reiterate the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the "United Nations Command" in south Korea in the light of United Nations reform.

Recently, the United States, referring to United Nations reform, argued that peacekeeping operations that have not played a due role in ending conflicts and securing peace and stability or have lasted longer than necessary should be terminated.

In this regard, we hold that dismantling the illegal "United Nations Command" that has existed in south Korea for more than half a century is indeed the number 1 target of United Nations reform. We cannot think of true United Nations reform if hangovers from the past century that do not have an actual relationship with the United Nations are left intact because the super-Power has a hand in them.

In July 1950, the United States arbitrarily gave the name "United Nations Command" to the "Command of the US Army Forces Far East", which is a typical pattern of misuse of the United Nations.

The United States claims that the "United Nations Command" is based on the Security Council resolution. However, that resolution was adopted without the participation of the former Soviet Union, one of the permanent members, and does not have a provision that specifies the establishment of a "United Nations Command".

The "United Nations Command" that the United States fabricated unlawfully by misusing the name of the United Nations creates obstacles to the settlement of the Korean issue and damages the credibility of the United Nations.

At its thirtieth session, in 1975, the General Assembly recognized the continued existence of the "United Nations Command" in south Korea as unnecessary and adopted a resolution to dismantle it.

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Nevertheless, the United States is insisting on the continued existence of the command, which reveals its ulterior intention to maintain its military supremacy in the Korean peninsula and north-east Asia, by continuously misusing the United Nations name.

We hold that the current United Nations reform process should be focused on the complete removal of the traces, from the past century, of misuse of the United Nations for improper political and military purposes.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 118.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative